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POPULATION, HEALTH & NUTRITION

LOCAL ENHANCEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT (LEAD) FOR HEALTH MANAGEMENT SCIENCES FOR HEALTH (MSH)

PROJECT OBJECTIVE

LEAD for Health is an innovative project that aims to strengthen local government financing and provision of family planning and selected health services, specifically tuberculosis (TB), maternal and child health (MCH), and HIV/AIDS.



The Project expects that the collective commitment and participation of local government units (LGUs) will impact positively on:

- increasing contraceptive prevalence rate;
- bringing down the total fertility rate;
- improving TB treatment success rate and Vitamin A supplementation coverage; and
- maintaining the country's low HIV seroprevalence.

Visit our website:
www.usaid-ph.gov

keywords: *TB, maternal health, AIDS*

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PROJECT BACKGROUND

In 1991, the Local Government Code (RA 7160) decentralized many central government functions, making the LGUs the primary provider of basic health care services, including family planning, MCH, TB, and HIV/AIDS services. However, the lack of pre-existing capacity to fulfill their new role compromised the provision of LGU-managed health care services. To improve the LGUs' service delivery provision to the population requires capacity development as well as a complementing policy environment. This approach will not only ensure the sustainability of programs beyond the tenure of government administrations. It will also encourage the untapped yet vibrant private sector to share in the responsibility of providing quality yet affordable health services to a sector of the population that can afford to pay.

Implemented by the MSH starting in October 2003, LEAD for Health seeks to engage and assist at least 530 municipalities and cities, with particular focus on Mindanao, over its three-year project life. The aggregate population of these LGUs is projected to reach 34 million in 2005. This will allow LEAD for Health to cover close to 40 percent of the projected 86 million Philippine population in that year.

PROJECT APPROACH

LEAD for Health uses a two-pronged approach to achieve objectives.

A. Strengthening local level support for, and the management and provision of family planning, TB, MCH, and HIV/AIDS

- Enrolling a critical mass of LGUs and providing them technical assistance (TA), including improving management information systems for family planning and health program management
- Exploring and developing new systems, strategies, and schemes for resource mobilization so that LGUs can increase their financial resources, allocate more funds for, and ensure the sustained provision of quality family planning and selected health services
- Improving the quality of family planning and selected health services by ensuring access to contraceptive methods (e.g., use of community-based distribution systems), identifying and removing barriers to family planning provision, and providing FP services in conjunction with postpartum and postabortion care

B. Improving national and local level policies to facilitate the efficient delivery of quality family planning and selected health services by municipalities and cities

- Undertaking studies on how contraceptive security could be attained
- Exploring alternative modes of financing contraceptives
- Strengthening national policies for increased spending for family planning, TB, Vitamin A supplementation, and HIV/AIDS programs
- Improving legal and regulatory policies for health service delivery



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ACCOMPLISHMENTS (AS OF DECEMBER 2004)

- Developed and published the first culture-sensitive, *Tausug*-specific integrated training course on FP, MCH and TB control.
- Organized Barangay Health Teams (BHT) in 21 project areas. Composed of a multi-sectoral group of traditional healers/pandays, community religious leaders/imams, apuh babai, Barangay Health Workers (BHW), Barangay Kagawad for Health, salimpak (assistants of pandays), model couples, mothers group and day care workers, the BHT acts as the front liner in the delivery of health services through referral, health education, and providing direct care at the health facilities and through home visits.
- Trained 424 BHT members on the integrated course on MCH, FP and TB Control.
- Organized Barangay Health Committee (BHC) in 18 project sites. The BHC is also a multi-sectoral group chaired by the Barangay Kagawad for Health and co-chaired by the Rural Health Midwife and/or Barangay midwife. It is tasked to conduct advocacy activities in support of health programs.
- Improved access to MCH, FP and TB services among community members with the construction of 15 Barangay Health Stations (BHS), upgrading of three BHSs, and renovation of the Rural Health Unit of Jolo with counterpart funds from concerned Local Government Units
- Increased awareness among community members on MCH, FP and TB concepts and services through the implementation of Behavior-Centered Communication activities, such as the radio program, "EnRICH Sulu On-Air", health caravan.